

Department may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of information into account when evaluating the applications.

- Each applicant must also certify that the products and services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the U.S., or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least 51% U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service.

Selection Criteria for Participation:

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of the company's products or services to each of the markets the company has expressed an interest in visiting as part of this trade mission.

- Company's potential for business in each of the markets the company has expressed an interest in visiting as part of this trade mission.

- Consistency of the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the mission

Diversity of company size, sector or subsector, and location may also be considered during the review process.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

VI. Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the Federal Register, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar, and other Internet Web sites, press releases to the general and trade media, direct mail and broadcast fax, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups and announcements at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows.

Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than March 30, 2012. The U.S. Department of Commerce will review applications and select the participants from the applicant pool on a first come first-served basis. After March 30, 2012, companies will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see http://www.sba.gov/services/contracting_opportunities/sizestandardtopics/index.html). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries

will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008. For additional information see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html>).

U.S. Contact Information

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

U.S. Aerospace Supplier & Investment Mission

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

Mission Description

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (CS) is organizing a U.S. Aerospace Supplier & Investment Mission to Montreal, Canada, May 6-9, 2012. This aerospace mission is an ideal opportunity for U.S. aerospace companies to gain valuable international business leads in a low risk, highly important international aerospace market. Canada has the fifth largest aerospace industry in the world; in 2009 it generated over \$22 billion in revenues. Participating U.S. companies will receive market briefings by Canadian industry experts, seminars on exporting best practices, participate in one-on-one meetings with Canadian aerospace supply chain contacts, engage in networking activities and visit key Canadian aerospace OEM plants such as Bombardier. This mission is designed to provide U.S. aerospace companies with

a highly effective and unique opportunity to establish supplier relations with major Canadian aerospace companies.

Commercial Setting

The United States and Canada share the largest and most dynamic commercial relationship in the world; U.S. trade with Canada exceeds total U.S. trade with the 27 countries of the European Union combined. Canada also represents the number one export market for 36 of our 50 states and is among the top five export markets for another ten states. The aerospace sector is one of Canada's best prospects for U.S. exporters.

Canada is a world leader in business and regional aircraft, commercial helicopters, turbine engines, flight simulators, avionics, a broad range of aircraft systems and components. The United States is Canada's largest supplier of aircraft parts and components; on average, Canadian aerospace companies purchase more than 50% of their inputs from the United States. In 2010, U.S.-Canada aerospace bilateral trade exceeded \$10 billion, and total U.S. aerospace exports to Canada were slightly more than \$5.5 billion. Canada was the United States' 5th largest aerospace export market, and in many aerospace sub-markets was often in the top 5. Industry estimates expected Canada's aerospace sector to continue growing slowly in the second half of 2011, and post more aggressive growth rates in 2012; by 2015 the Canadian aerospace industry is expected to reach pre-2008 growth rates. Furthermore, industry analysts are predicting long term growth in commercial aircraft production over the next 20 years; since Canada's aerospace sector is 83% civil, this anticipated trend will bode well for Canada and for U.S. companies exporting to this market.

Quebec and Ontario are at the heart of the Canadian aerospace industry with about 51% and 29% of local production respectively. Montreal is the world's third largest aerospace cluster after Toulouse and Seattle, and is the only place in the world where an entire aircraft can be assembled within a 30-mile radius. Montreal is home to renowned industry leaders such as Bombardier Aerospace, Bell Helicopter Textron, Pratt & Whitney Canada, and CAE. To this exceptional concentration of world leaders, we can add other big names such as Rolls-Royce Canada, Héroux Devtek, Messier-Dowty, CMC Electronics—Esterline, Thales Canada, and many other suppliers.

Canada's geographic proximity, open market economy, stable business climate and receptivity to U.S. goods and services make it an ideal market for achieving the National Export Initiative goals. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allows for U.S. products to enter Canada duty-free and therefore further contributes to the relatively low-cost, low-risk, access that U.S. SMEs can use to prosper and grow in this foreign marketplace.

Mission Goals

The trade mission's goal is to advance the National Export Initiative by providing U.S. suppliers of aerospace products the opportunity to meet with key potential customers such as

Canadian aerospace OEMs, sales agents and distributors and obtain export successes in Canada.

Mission Scenario

Participants in the mission to Canada will benefit from a full range of business facilitation and trade promotion services provided by the U.S. Commercial Service in Canada. Participants will receive a briefing by a panel of experts on the Canadian, Quebec and Ontario aerospace markets, an overview of doing business in Canada, and seminars with additional key information for U.S. exporters. It will also include one-on-one business meetings between U.S. participants and potential Canadian business partners, networking

opportunities, and tours of some of the largest aerospace OEMs, where companies will have the opportunity to meet senior representatives and learn about planned projects and expected procurement needs. Please see the timetable below with detailed information on the program. Prior to the end of the mission, Commercial Service staff will counsel participants on follow-up.

Proposed Timetable

The proposed schedule allows for three days in Montreal and describes the programming planned for participating U.S. companies.

Sunday, May 6	Participants arrive in Montreal. 6 p.m. No-Host Ice Breaker and No-Host Dinner.
Monday, May 7	8:00–8:30 Mission Welcoming Remarks by Consul General/SCO & Mission Logistics Briefing. 8:30–9:30 Presentation: Doing Business in Canada. 9:30–10:30 Presentations: Trends in the Canadian Aerospace Sector Panel. 10:30–11:00 Coffee Break—Networking. 11:00–12:30 Presentations: Canada's Aerospace Market, Quebec's Aerospace Market, Ontario's Aerospace Market. 12:30–13:30 Lunch Break (on their own). 14:00–16:00 Seminars: Exporting to Canada Best Practices. Program for U.S. Companies. 8:30–12:00 Business Matchmaking Appointments. 12:00–14:00 General Event Networking Lunch. 14:00–16:30 Business Matchmaking Appointments. 17:30–19:30 General Event Reception hosted by CG.
Tuesday, May 8	9:00–15:00 Plant Tours of Canadian aerospace OEMs for U.S. Companies. 16:00–16:30 Mission Debriefing at Hotel. Program End.
Wednesday, May 9	

Participation Requirements

All parties interested in participating in the U.S. aerospace trade and investment mission must complete and submit an application form for consideration by the Department of Commerce. All applicants will be evaluated on their ability to satisfy the selection criteria as outlined below. This mission has a goal of a minimum of 15 and maximum of 18 companies.

Fees and Expenses: After a company has been selected to participate on the mission, a participation fee paid to the U.S. Department of Commerce is required. The participation fee will be \$2,800 for large firms and \$2,200 for a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)*, for up to two company

representatives. The fee for any additional representative is \$250. Expenses for travel, lodging, in-country transportation (except for bus transportation to visit local aerospace OEMs on the third day of the mission), meals and incidentals will be the responsibility of each mission participant.

Conditions for Participation

- An applicant must submit a completed and signed Trade Mission application and a completed Market Interest Questionnaire, including adequate information on the company's products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation. If the Department of Commerce receives an incomplete application, the Department may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of information into account when evaluating the applications.
- Each applicant must also certify that the products and services to be promoted through the mission are either produced in the United States or

marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least 51 percent U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service.

Selection Criteria for Participation

For Companies:

- Suitability of the company's products or services for the Canadian aerospace market.
- Applicant's potential for business in Canada, including the likelihood of exports resulting from the mission.
- Consistency in the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the mission.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**,

* An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see http://www.sba.gov/services/contracting_opportunities/sizestandardstoc/index.html). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008 (see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html> for additional information).

posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (http://export.gov/trademissions/eg_main_023185.asp) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. CS Canada intends to conduct a webinar on "Opportunities in the Canadian Aerospace Market" to supplement recruitment efforts in January 2012.

The mission recruitment will be open on a first-come, first-served basis. Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and close on February 1, 2012. Applications received after February 1, 2012 will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit. Applications will be available online on the mission Web site at: <http://www.buyusa.gov/Canada>.

Information can also be obtained by contacting the mission contacts listed below.

Contacts: A Gina Rebelo Bento, Commercial Specialist—Aerospace, U.S. Consulate General in Montreal, PO Box 65, Desjardins Station, Montreal, QC H5B 1G1, Tel: 514-908-3660, E-mail: Gina.Bento@mail.doc.gov.

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Commercial Service Trade Mission Program, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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BILLING CODE 3510-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

U.S. Automotive Parts and Components Business Development Mission to Russia

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

Mission Description

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (CS), is organizing an Automotive Parts and Components Business Development Mission to Russia on April 23–28, 2012. Led by a senior Department of Commerce official, this mission is designed to provide an opportunity to explore Russia's rapidly expanding car and truck assembly market to a diverse cross section of companies selling goods and services into the automotive sector, including but not limited to: components for vehicle manufacture,

replacement parts, aftermarket products, repair equipment, capital equipment used for vehicle manufacture, testing equipment, and software and engineering services.

Mission participants will benefit from expert briefings on the Russian market as well as on current developments in Russia's emerging auto sector. The mission program will include opportunities to meet key Russian Government officials and decision-makers, one-on-one meetings with potential business partners and site visits to automotive assembly plants and component manufacturers. The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service is targeting a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 U.S. companies.

Commercial Setting

During Soviet times, average citizens spent years on waiting lists for the 4 or 5 models of available cars, most based on 1960s technology. Quality control was minimal.

In 2010, automobile ownership in Russia—a country of 140 million consumers—grew to more than 244 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants, 70% higher than the 2001 rate of 140 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants. This compares to around 850 cars for every 1,000 Americans. Sales of cars and trucks in Russia are currently growing at an annual rate of 30 percent. Approximately 34 million cars are on Russian roads today, of which 14 million are foreign brands.

While sales of Russian automobiles declined in 2008, due to the world-wide financial crisis and recession, car sales have picked up again as the Russian economy recovers. In 2010, Russian customers purchased 1.9 million cars. This figure includes 646,000 new Russian cars and 1.25 million foreign cars, both imported and produced in Russia. Importers forecast continued rapid growth of approximately 20 percent in 2011. If these trends continue, most experts project Russia will be the largest automotive market in Europe in the next few years.

Prior to the global financial crisis that started in 2008, Russia's economy was growing at a healthy pace. Annual GDP growth averaged 7.5 percent from 2001–2007. In 2008 and 2009, Russia experienced negative GDP growth. However, Russia's economy began to grow again in late 2010, experiencing GDP growth of 3.8% in the last two quarters of 2010. Economists now forecast Russia's economy, supported by higher prices for oil, gas and raw materials, to continue growing at around 4% annually in the near term.

Russia's giant auto plants remained largely unaffected by the economic turmoil that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. During the inflationary 1990s, auto parts became a valuable barter commodity. As the Russian market opened to imports, the few wealthy Russians able to afford imported vehicles opted for new foreign cars. At the same time, imported used cars began to compete with new Russian cars in the rapidly expanding mass market. The financial crisis of 1998 and the significant devaluation of the Russian ruble made imports more expensive and thus provided a stimulus to Russian manufacturers.

Russia's auto industry has largely been centered in the city of Togliatti in the Samara region and in Nizhny Novgorod. The giant AvtoVaz factory, one of Russia's largest industrial enterprises, is located in the city of Togliatti. The plant reported output of 517,000 cars in 2010 and accounted for 30 percent of Russia's automotive output. AvtoVaz produces cars in the \$5,000 to \$15,000 range for the Russian market and exports about 8% of its output to the former Soviet republics.

The GAZ plant in Nizhny Novgorod has ceased production of passenger vehicles. The last Volga Sibir—a modified version of the Chrysler Sebring sedan—rolled off the assembly line October 31, 2010. The factory continues to produce the popular Gazelle line of light trucks and minivans, and the company also produces general purpose heavy trucks that are used in a variety of industries.

UAZ in Ulyanovsk produces light utility and military vehicles. The UAZ-469 all terrain vehicle was the standard off-road vehicle for the Soviet armed forces and was used by armies around the world due to its reputation for reliability and ease of maintenance. Today, the company's UAZ Hunter is a successor vehicle to the 469 made for the consumer market, and it has also introduced the UAZ Patriot—a mid-size SUV with an economical price. UAZ produced 49,000 vehicles in 2010.

Russia's largest automotive corporation KAMAZ is ranked 13th among the world's heavy truck producers and is number 8 in the production of diesel engines. Its trucks have won the Dakar Rally a record 10 times. It is the largest manufacturer of heavy trucks in the former Soviet Union. Its massive factory in Naberezhny Chelny, Tatarstan has production capacity for over 100,000 vehicles. The company's diesel engine plants include wholly-owned subsidiary Kamaz-Diesel and Cummins-Kama, a